

BISHOP HURST ON N. A. A. C. P. BOARD

New York, Jan. 10.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its annual meeting in New York on January 3rd, and elected ten directors, the only new one being Bishop Hurst of Baltimore. The Association now has sixty-three branches all over the country, and nearly 10,000 members, and has never been in a better position than it is now. The chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. J. E. Spingarn; the Treasurer, Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard; the Secretary, Miss Mary Childs Nerney; and the Director of Publications and Research, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, read their annual reports, which will be printed later in *The Crisis*. Shortly after the annual meeting the Board of Directors met and elected the following officers for the year: Moorfield Storey, president; J. E. Spingarn, chairman of the board; Oswald Garrison Villard, treasurer; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, director of publications and research; vice presidents, John Haynes Holmes, Oswald Garrison Villard, John E. Milholland, Archibald H. Grimke, Mary White Ovington, Garnet R. Waller. The resignation of Miss Nerney as secretary was accepted with regret, and Miss Ovington was appointed acting secretary until a permanent successor could be found. With the exception of Miss Nerney all the officers are the same as last year.

N. A. A. C. P. ELECTS JOHNSON TO NEW PLACE

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at the December meeting of the board of directors, appointed James Weldon Johnson contributing editor of *The New York Age*, to the newly created position of field secretary. Mr. Johnson is an author of distinction, and was a prize-winner in the recent contest of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, for editorials on "Why Hughes Should Be Elected."

Mr. Johnson is familiar with conditions in the South and his keen judicial mind is conservative but forceful. He will be able to handle the questions coming to him for consideration with a clear insight that will make his work of great value. His appointment indicates that a co-operation of forces is being effected amongst colored Ameri-

cans at the present time, and that the substantial unanimity of opinion expressed by the leaders of all schools of thought represented last summer at the America Conference is working out in the direction of a more united front to the common enemies of the race.

Mr. Johnson spent three years in graduate work at Columbia University, in the City of New York, and for several years was principal of the colored high school at Jacksonville. He was admitted to the Florida bar in 1897 and practiced law in Jacksonville until 1901, when he removed to New York. He married Miss Grace E. Nail of New York in 1910. Mr. Johnson has had an interesting career in the public service. In 1906 he was appointed United States Consul at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, being transferred as Consul to Corinto, Nicaragua, in 1909, and to the Azores in 1912. While at Corinto, he looked after the interests of his country during the stormy days of the revolution which resulted in the downfall of Zelaya and the abortive revolution against Diaz. He was the translator from Spanish to English of the libretto of "Goyescas," the Spanish grand opera produced at the Metropolitan Opera in 1915; and he has made several translations from the French.

An Author of Distinction.

As an American author, his poems have appeared in the *Century*, the *Independent*, the *Crisis* and other magazines; and his novel, "The Autobiography of an ex-Colored Man," is one of the most powerful stories ever woven about the theme of race relations. He is a member of the American Society of Authors and Composers; of the Civic Club, New York, and is vice-president of the New York branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

Recently he has been on a six weeks' mission throughout the South, representing the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, in an endeavor to persuade the editors of the leading white newspapers to take an enlightened attitude toward the exodus of Negro labor at present going on. Everywhere he was received with the greatest courtesy and consideration, and much good is expected to result from his presentation of the Negro case.

Mr. Johnson will continue as contributing editor of *The New York Age*, and his abilities as writer, speaker, and politician will be devoted to organizing the Negroes in America and spreading the doctrine of an uncompromising demand for their full rights as American citizens.



JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
Newspaper Cutting Bureau in the

FOR NEGRO UPLIFT

Completion of Lincoln's Work Declared Object of Association at First Public Meeting

The first public meeting of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has recently organized in this city, was held last evening in the A. M. E. Zion church, East King street. The following program was given: Song, "America," entire congregation; invocation, the Rev. Dr. J. A. S. Cole; piano solo, Miss Mabel Brown; vocal solo, Miss Etta Burke; address, the Rev. Dr. Edward Williams; cornet solo, Milton Gibson; vocal solo, Dr. George W. Bowles.

In his address the Rev. Dr. Williams emphasized the purpose for which the association was organized. Its mission, he said, is to complete the work begun by the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, and to secure for the colored race the full enjoyment of rights as citizens, justice in all courts and an equality of opportunity

everywhere. The association, he declared, proposes to make a group of 10,000,000 Americans free from the hindering shackles of slavery, physically free from peonage, mentally free from ignorance, politically free from disfranchisement and socially free from insult. It abhors negro crime, but still more the conditions which breed crime and, most of all, the crimes committed by mobs in the mockery of the law, or by individuals in the name of the law. The Rev. Dr. Williams further emphasized the hypocrisy, which he said is so glaringly manifested in the so-called American position when it poses as the arbiter of the rights of humanity, being ready to defend it, when the lynching of 2,812 persons, American citizens, within the borders of the U. S., is passed unnoticed by the courts and even by the president of the United States.

The association believes that the scientific truths of the negro problem must be available before the country can see its way wholly clear to right existing wrongs. It has no other belief than that the best way to uplift the colored man is the best way to aid the white man in peace and social content. It has no other desire than to exact justice and no other motive than humanity.

The officers of the local branch of the association are: President, the Rev. Dr. W. E. Williams; vice president, Paris Daker; treasurer, Dr. G. W. Bowles; secretary, Dr. William W. Gittens.

ADVANCEMENT ASSN.

HAS ANNUAL MEETING

New York, Jan. 5.—The annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was held at the Assembly Room of the Society for Ethical Culture, New York City, Jan. 3. The report showed that the work of the Association was in excellent condition. The Association now numbers nearly 10,000 members with 63 branches and locals throughout the United States.

A large amount of legal work has been done. First and foremost comes the winning of the celebrated Oklahoma grandfather clause case. This Association was the only association which filed a brief in this case. President Moorfield Storey, representing the association. Segregation cases have been brought into court in Louisville and Baltimore. The Louisville case has just reached the Supreme Court and will be pushed vigorously. The third Baltimore case has reached the Court of Appeals. Attorney D. Ashbie Hawkins was unable to be present at the annual meeting on that account. A number of other court cases have been pressed, involving civil rights of various sorts. In fact, so overwhelming is the work before the Legal Department, that a paid attorney must be hired during the coming year. The

Washington Branch, headed by the Hon. A. H. Grimke, acts as a vigilance committee. Two paid agents watch proposed legislation in Congress continually.

During the year the Association has received over \$13,000 and ends the year with a surplus of \$2,000 in its treasury. This does not include the funds of the Crisis. The income

of the Crisis has been \$24,000 during the year and during its existence of five years its gross income has been over \$84,000. Beginning with the month of January, 1916, the Crisis becomes self-supporting, paying all its expenses, including the salary of the director of publications and research. This will lift a considerable burden from the Association and free its funds for other work.

Oswald Garrison Villard, who is first vice-president and treasurer, is compelled to give up the treasurer-ship, because of his continued absence in Washington. Secretary Mary Childs Nerney retires to accept another position elsewhere.

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PRAISE FOR COLORED RACE.

H. M. Williams Commends Progress in Face of Prejudice.

Commendation for the progress made by the colored race during the last 50 years in the face of strong race prejudice was bestowed by H. Martin Williams, reading clerk of the House, in an address before the negro race conference at Mount Carmel Baptist Church Friday. Mr. Williams said: "You have faced it like men, and have made your way up in spite of the utmost difficulties."

Following the address of Mr. Williams, the conference took the form of a permanent organization with the election of the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, of Washington, as president, and the election of other officers as follows: The Rev. J. Milton Waldron and E. P. Cheek, of New Jersey, vice presidents; W. M. Alexander, of Baltimore, secretary; S. L. Carruthers, treasurer; W. A. Taylor, corresponding secretary, and W. D. Norman, chairman of the executive committee.

The organization, on the question of endorsing the Republican nominee for President, voted to appoint a committee of nine to wait upon Mr. Hughes and ascertain his views and purposes in regard to the colored race. The executive committee opposed the appointment of the committee and urged the immediate indorsement of Mr. Hughes.

President Jernagin, in speaking of the conditions among the colored race, said that in the last six months more than 500,000 colored persons had left the South for New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Northwestern States to take the places of foreign laborers who have returned to their respective countries. He asserted the employers are more

than satisfied with them as laborers and are willing to employ 1,000,000 more.

He said the leaders of the colored race feel that there are too many of their race in the South yet, and that every effort would be made to secure the migration of the surplus to Northern and Western States.

EVENING STAR

ess: Washington, D. C.

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Dr. Sterling N. Brown of Howard University and president of the National Convention of Congregational Workers Among Colored People, has left Washington to attend the convention's session at Talladega, Ala., September 20 to 24. Dr. A. C. Garner and Z. P. Moore, also of this city, are to attend the sessions.